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The CIA Gets a New Boss

AFTER little more than a year on the job, Vice Adm. William F. Raborn has resigned as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, this country's super-sleuth organization.

President Johnson made the "surprise" announcement of the resignation during a 35-minute news conference Saturday. In fact, he tucked the announcement in between some incidental bits of information, hoping, apparently, to spare himself some probing questions.

For, the CIA and Raborn's direction of it have come in for some sharp criticism of late. Reports of widespread CIA links with colleges and universities and the move in Congress to make information of the agency's workings available to more senators undoubtedly upset Raborn. He is said to have had sharp differences with other top men in the CIA, as well as with senators, over these matters.

Raborn was a top military man, as witness the fact he had over-all control of the vital Polaris program prior to

his retirement from the Navy. But he was not versed in the intricacies of foreign affairs, and this is why more than a few eyebrows were raised when he was named CIA director 13 months ago. Neither was he what is loosely called an intelligence expert.

The CIA, after all, is involved primarily in the foreign affairs and intelligence areas. That's precisely why there's agitation to have representatives of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee let in on CIA doings. And it's the same reason those who oppose the proposal have few arguments to support their position.

Raborn is being succeeded by a career intelligence man, Deputy Director Richard M. Helms, a World War II OSS officer. He has an unenviable task for, by its very nature, the CIA is an agency which stands always to be criticized for its faults since its accomplishments are necessarily kept hush. But at least Helms goes into it with the knowledge that this is indeed the case.